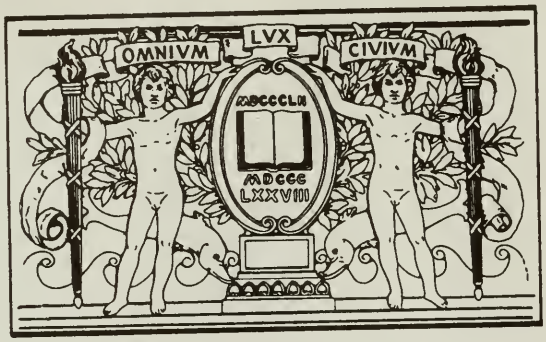
TRIBUTE TO JOSHUA BATES

BY

BOSTON MERCHANTS



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TRIBUTE

OF

BOSTON MERCHANTS

To the Memory

OF

JOSHUA BATES,

October, 1864.

BOSTON:
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1864.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNMENT.

A Special Meeting of the Government of the Board of Trade was held on the 19th of October, 1864. The President, James C. Converse, Esq., on taking the Chair, said: —

Gentlemen, — The news of the decease of the late Joshua Bates, of London, has recently been received in this country. You have been called together this morning to determine what action it is fit should be taken by the merchants of this community in reference to this sad event.

You will all, I have no doubt, concur with me in the view, that it is eminently proper and desirable that some opportunity should be offered the public for the expression of their appreciation of his high character as a gentleman, his great ability as a merchant, and his liberality in the benefactions he has bestowed upon some of our public institutions.

The Hon. Samuel H. Walley next rose, and addressed the Chair thus: —

Mr. President, — We have all heard with deep regret the announcement of the death of Mr. Bates, to which you have just alluded; and it seems highly appropriate, as well as in perfect consonance with our own feelings, that some notice should be taken of this sad event by this Board.

I came here with the expectation that our respected associate, Col. Thomas Aspinwall, would present some Resolution to indicate our feelings on this occasion. It is eminently fit that he should do so, not only from the position which he occupies in this Board, and in this community, but also from the fact, that, as Consul of the United States in London, he had the opportunity to meet Mr. Bates continually, and to learn from personal observation the value of his talents, and the high respect which was there entertained for his ability and integrity. I regret to learn that Col. Aspinwall is absent from the city. Owing to this circumstance, I have been requested to offer the Resolution which I hold in my hand. It affords me sincere pleasure to have the honor of doing so.

Mr. Bates was a fortunate man; but his success, under Providence, is to be attributed to the good use he always made of natural endowments, coupled with a character of high moral worth. It was my good fortune to witness, while abroad, the respect in which he was held. And his memory is justly dear to every Bosto-

nian, not only for his general standing, but for the special interest which he manifested in the welfare of his native land, and the liberal and repeated donations which he made to aid in the establishment and usefulness of the Public Library of Boston. I beg to offer the following Resolution: —

"Whereas intelligence has been received of the death of JOSHUA BATES, of London, who was a native of this Commonwealth, who commenced his mercantile career in Boston, and whose business associations with the United States have been most extensive and important, —

"*Resolved*, That this Board desire to express, and to place upon record, its appreciation of the enterprise, the ability, and the integrity which contributed to render Mr. BATES so eminent in his profession as a merchant; and which, with the breadth and liberality of his views on educational, national, and international questions, secured for him a high consideration on both sides of the Atlantic, such as is rarely attained. His name will long be honorably remembered throughout the commercial world; and his decease will be deeply felt by all who came within the reach of his influence."

This Resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Hon. GEORGE C. RICHARDSON, senior Vice-President of the Board, followed, and thus spoke: —

Mr. PRESIDENT, — JOSHUA BATES, of whom it can be truly said that he was a representative American merchant, has been for many years well known, not only in Massachusetts, his native State, but throughout the commercial world. His connection with the eminent firm of BARING BROTHERS & Co. needs only to be mentioned to indicate his high position as a merchant and banker. The merchants of Boston, I have no doubt, will deem

it a high privilege to give expression of their appreciation of the noble traits of character possessed by our late honored and distinguished fellow-countryman. Therefore, allow me to propose as follows: —

"*Resolved*, That, in view of the intimate commercial relations sustained by Mr. BATES to this community, the merchants of Boston be invited to meet in the Merchants' Exchange, on Friday next, at one o'clock, P. M., to give a more general expression of respect to his memory."

This Resolution was also unanimously adopted.

Thereupon, on motion of WILLIAM PERKINS, Esq., junior Vice-President of the Board: —

"*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be nominated by the Chair to carry into effect the foregoing Resolution."

The President appointed Messrs. J. WILEY EDMANDS, WILLIAM PERKINS, and JAMES M. BEEBE.

Adjourned.

Attest, LORENZO SABINE,

Secretary.

PUBLIC MEETING.

In accordance with the foregoing proceedings, a large number of merchants, bankers, underwriters, and others, assembled in the Merchants' Exchange at the time designated; and the Hon. J. Wiley Edmands, Chairman of the Committee, in calling to order, spoke as follows: —

Fellow-Citizens, — The announcement of the death of Joshua Bates has been read with mournful interest by those engaged in the various walks of commerce.

It has been our sad privilege, often of late, as eminent citizens have, one after another, been taken from us, to assemble in this place, to do honor to their memory, and to express our appreciation of the virtues which distinguished them in their profession, and our sense of the loss sustained in their death.

It is a truth, confirmed by history and observation, that there are periods in the progress of every community, when its character is permanently fixed by that of its leading men. Our own is not an exception. In view of such relations, and the high example left by these eminent men, our public recognition of their virtues, and our tributes to their memory, imply great obliga-

tions and responsibilities on our part. We are false to them and ourselves, if we do not profit under such elevating influences.

Mr. Bates, in the early part of his business life, was the associate of those of our citizens who became so conspicuous in their day, — men whose names will ever be mentioned with honor and respect.

He belonged to that class of merchants who have done so much to form the character of Boston, and whose influence will continue to be felt, so long as the record of their lives exists.

During the many years which have passed since he took up his residence abroad, his extensive business with this country brought him into constant intercourse with merchants of this city; some of whom had his personal acquaintance and friendship. These speak of him in terms of affection and admiration; and the dispensation of Providence which has removed him from us has excited within them feelings of the deepest sorrow.

While enjoying in London all that can make the highest social rank enviable, early associations still held their influence over him. He bore his native State in fond remembrance. Though immersed in business world wide in its connections, he concerned himself in the welfare of Boston. His sphere of action was not confined to the narrow pursuit of pecuniary gain, through his regular calling; but his objects of thought extended to the field of human culture, and the improvement of society. He became specially endeared to our

people by the interest in their advancement in knowledge which he manifested in making his munificent donations to the Public Library. And, above all, he retained that unalterable attachment to his native country, which led him, through all its vicissitudes, to stand by us, in hope and confidence, to the last. In a word, the good name and fame of Boston have been magnified through him.

It may be truly said of Mr. Bates, that he reflected lustre upon the character of the merchant. The probity and mercantile honor which marked his career will ever stand a high example to all others.

It becomes the duty, as it is the privilege, of the merchants of Boston to take public notice of his death; and that is the object of this meeting. The Board of Trade have taken preliminary action. They have issued the call which has brought us together, to consider what shall be the proceedings in honor of the memory of Mr. Bates; and they have made it my duty to open the meeting. I will now call your attention to its organization. A list of officers has been prepared, which I will read and present for your approval: —

President	William Ropes.
Vice-Presidents	Israel Whitney. Edward Austin. John M. Forbes. Amos A. Lawrence. James C. Converse.
Secretaries	Lorenzo Sabine. Samuel T. Dana. James Sturgis.

This list was unanimously adopted; and William Ropes, Esq., on taking the Chair, said: —

Gentlemen and Friends, — The occasion that has called us together at this time is one of no ordinary interest. Boston cherishes the memory of her sons, and cannot suffer them to pass unnoticed into the grave. She educates them liberally, and they then go forth to their fields of duty and usefulness. In due time, she points to them in their several spheres of action, proud of their success, and says, "There they are; while they live, they need no commendation from us: let their characters and example speak their worth."

The lamented friend whose memory we are now assembled to honor, although not literally a "Boston boy," we claim as a *Boston merchant*, and emphatically a citizen of the "Old Bay State." Although not born in this city, he was, from his earliest *business years*, in our midst, and received his mercantile training in the counting-room of that eminent merchant-prince, William Gray, whose keen perception had early marked young Mr. Bates as endowed with no ordinary mind and talents. Under his patronage, Mr. Bates was placed, for a short time, in partnership with Mr. Beckford, an old India shipmaster in the employment of Mr. Gray.

At this period, now more than half a century ago, my acquaintance with him commenced; and it continued until his decease.

His connection with Mr. Beckford was soon closed,

on account of the war with England; and, shortly after this, Mr. Gray sent him to Europe as his agent, to superintend his immense concerns with most of the great commercial houses and agencies on the Continent and in England. This brought Mr. Bates in contact and intimacy with those houses, and soon led to the high estimate which they ever after placed on his abilities and character. Here also commenced friendships and influences which led to the most important connections and results in his business and his social life.

One fact only need be mentioned, to show the unbounded confidence in him with which those houses were inspired. When the opportunity of forming a connection with Mr. J. Baring presented, one of those houses spontaneously offered to Mr. Bates all the capital required of him as a partner, without security.

After he commenced business in England, I often visited him, and was deeply interested in his relation of many incidents and circumstances of his life, and of the changes through which he passed, after he entered upon his business career, and until he became a full partner in that distinguished firm of world-wide fame, Baring Brothers, & Co., which probably is not surpassed for extensive, honorable, and successful business transactions by any other in existence.

I leave to those who are to address us on this occasion, to speak of Mr. Bates's magnificent gifts to our city, and will only add a few words respecting his traits of character.

He was most genial in his temper and manners. Always easy of access, he was ready to hear whatever might be proposed of business plans, and to treat with kindness even those whose proposals he could not accept. He was always ready to aid young merchants in promising plans of business, if approved by him, while he discouraged with perfect courtesy such as he could not sanction. His advice, always disinterested, was faithfully given when solicited.

But the great, distinguishing trait in his character was his perfect self-command, which enabled him to use his sound sense and excellent judgment on *every subject* presented to his mind; and he seldom failed in arriving at a right decision. I doubt if any gentleman, here or elsewhere, ever saw Mr. Bates excited or irritated *on any subject.* He did *nothing* in a hurry. I once asked him how he had attained such perfect self-control. He answered, that, when he saw his business assuming a magnitude far beyond his former experience, he felt it to be *absolutely necessary* to attain and to preserve an equanimity of temper that would not permit his feelings to cloud his own judgment, or to irritate others.

His house had all kinds of plans of business presented for patronage; and he found he could succeed generally, by kindliness of manner, and calm presentation of reasonable objections, in putting off many wild projects, without offending the applicants, and thus save himself and others from all irritating conflicts; and he succeeded in this to admiration.

But Mr. Bates's influence was not confined to business transactions.

His hospitality and social feelings, and his eminent reputation for sound judgment and perfect integrity, gave him a most extensive, though silent, sway in some of the highest interests, even of nations. There is good reason for believing, that the influence obtained by the exercise of his virtues over the present Emperor of France did much to prevent the hostile feelings of the French people, at a critical moment in European affairs, from being carried out to open war with England, which, if not thus prevented, might have convulsed the nations.

This gifted and valued friend has now gone for ever from us; but his example remains.

Young merchants of Boston, — of whom I see many now before me, — I would recommend to your study and imitation the characters of such American merchants as have done honor to our city and country, — Bates, Goodhue (father and son), Perit, — all of whom were united in closest friendship during their lives, — and many others whom I could mention. Go, and like them fix your standard high; and the beneficial influence of your example will reach and bless the four quarters of the globe.

As soon as the President had concluded, the Hon. George B. Upton rose, and read: —

"Whereas recent advices from London have announced the decease of Joshua Bates, a native citizen of Massachusetts, and long

occupying one of the foremost places among the merchants of the world, —

"And whereas, in his foreign home, during a long and active life, he has dispensed a hospitality peculiarly grateful to the citizens of his native country, with a kindness of manner unruffled by the cares or perplexities of his vocation, —

"And whereas, in these latter days of our national trials, he has ever been a true and unflinching friend to the Government of the United States, and in full sympathy and accord with those who are resolved to maintain the integrity of the Union at all hazards, —

"*Resolved*, That it is fit that the merchants of Boston, the cradle of his commercial life, many of whom, in their foreign travels, have found a home of relaxation and instruction at his fireside, should offer their tribute of gratitude and respect to the memory of their distinguished representative and friend.

"*Resolved*, That, in the fidelity to trusts committed to him, in the unassuming modesty of his manners, in the steady course of his daily life, and in the calm self-reliance with which he moved among his equals, we recognize the traits of character which commanded success, and, far better, the respect of all who knew him.

"*Resolved*, That the life of a son of New England, who, without advantage of early fortune or liberal education, became the peer of the most intelligent men of business of the Old World; who, without holding public office, was the associate of those occupying the highest official stations in Europe, — is an ornament to his native State, and worthy of grateful recognition by her sons.

"*Resolved*, That we hold in especial honor the great merchant, who unites with an intimate knowledge of the products of all climates and countries, of the wants, habits, and capacities of different peoples, a practical sagacity which regulates the exchanges of the world for the common benefit of the whole human race, and carries the benign influence of Commerce, with her white sails, — emblems of peace, — over every sea.

"*Resolved*, That copies of the proceedings of this meeting, attested by its officers, be sent to the family of Mr. Bates, and to Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co."

In supporting these Resolutions, Mr. Upton said: —

I do not come here to indulge in panegyrics. It is out of place, and entirely unnecessary. The basis of true character is virtue. This is the moral power; and, when combined with an enlarged intellect, no matter what were the accidents of life in the place of his birth, or where he has his residence, an individual thus constituted cannot help exercising an important influence for good upon society about him. It is in memory of such a man, now called home by his Creator, that we pause from our wonted employments, and have come up to testify our sympathy for his family in their great bereavement, and to draw such general lessons from his long and useful career as may stimulate us, in our more humble sphere, to emulate in a degree his noble example.

Few persons not in active business are aware of the great influence exercised by the banking establishments of London upon the commercial transactions of the world. I hardly need say to this audience, that this remark applies with great force to the house of Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., of which Mr. Bates was an important partner. In a new country like ours, where capital is in demand, the friendly feelings of such a house towards any community is of itself an element of great importance, in a business point of view. I might name repeated instances in which Mr. Bates's friendly influences were brought to bear with the house in advances of capital; such as, for instance, to establish the

line of packets which our fellow-citizen Col. TRAIN represented, and which, to say the least, did no dishonor either to the city or State. I do not, however, propose to follow further this train of remark. Cold in death, extreme praise or unjust blame fall on his ear equally alike. Impartial justice will render his memory immortal.

JOSHUA BATES, born and educated like his contemporary, GEORGE PEABODY, within our own Commonwealth, —it speaks well for the stock of the State, that two such men, without any particular family influence, but going out from among us with character only as the foundation of their capital, should have established a world-wide reputation from the home of their adoption in the city of London. It speaks in louder tones, however, for these two individuals, that, when their indomitable perseverance and probity had, through the blessing of Providence, given them the pecuniary means of doing good, they not only expended with a liberal hand in the home of their adoption, but, with an enlarged vision, they looked across the Atlantic to the State wherein they were born, and dispensed with no stinted, but with a noble and generous hand, their great charities.

If there is a spot in the world where the memory of Mr. BATES should be kept green and unfading, it is here in this city of Boston.

> "Let vanity o'er unwept bones
> Erect huge monumental stones,
> And on them grave a lie."

Let his monument, however, be in the memory of the generations of those who now use, and who shall continue hereafter to use, the Public Library of this city, enlarged as it has been through his great munificence; and may those generations, as they study and learn his history, cultivate the same high principles which made him morally great! and may they also learn that most difficult of all lessons, that, when Providence has blessed their efforts, to take an example from Mr. Bates, and use their substance, while living, in the support of such institutions as will add to the virtue and knowledge, and consequently the happiness, of mankind! I hope, sir, that the Resolutions which have been offered will meet the general sense of this meeting.

William Gray, Esq., followed, and spoke thus:—

Mr. President, — It has long been the custom of the merchants of Boston to meet in this place, to take becoming notice of the decease of those of their number who have closed an honorable professional career. We have assembled to-day for a kindred purpose, which has some features peculiarly its own.

We have met to pay our tribute of gratitude and respect to the memory of one rarely seen among us, whose personal appearance was unknown to the great majority of the Boston merchants of the present generation, and who has left few survivors among his contemporaries.

Nearly fifty years ago, a young man, born in Wey-

mouth, Massachusetts, with no advantages of fortune, or liberal education, left the shores of his native land to seek a new home, pecuniary independence, and an honorable name in the great commercial metropolis of the world. His boyhood, like that of most New-England boys of his time, was passed in circumstances which tended to foster and develop those traits of industry, perseverance, and self-reliance, which contributed largely to the distinction which he subsequently achieved. In the common school, and in a New-England home, he received his early training. When at the age of fifteen years, as he told me, he accompanied his father who was carrying a boat-load of stone to the neighboring town, now city of Charlestown, he was addressed by a person on the wharf, who said, "My lad, should you like to come into my counting-room? I can do something better for you." The invitation was at once accepted. His father gave him five dollars, and a stone-cutter's note for twenty dollars, which was subsequently paid in instalments, as his entire patrimony. In that counting-room his mercantile training was commenced.

In 1813 he formed a copartnership with Capt. Beckford of Charlestown, under the style of Beckford & Bates; but, owing to the troubles growing out of the war with Great Britain in 1812, their business was not successful, and after three years the copartnership was dissolved.

In 1816 he left the United States, and took up his

abode in London, where he resided until the time of his decease, in the month of September last. During this long absence, he made three short visits to his native country.

It seems a fitting place to introduce a piece of autobiography which I received this morning, in a note from New York. The writer says, "He was very fond of taking up a piece of paper. I dare say he said to WESTON (R. W. WESTON, of New York, his nephew), I will give you my history, and handed him the paper. WESTON left for Weymouth this morning. When he comes back, I will ask for the original piece; but I am sure I copied it correctly in 1857." The paper consists of a single line against each year, or several years together, from 1790 to 1828, and is characteristic of the simplicity and conciseness with which he usually wrote. Permit me to read it, Mr. President. He was born in 1788.

1790	At Weymouth.	
91	Old Plymouth.	
92	Road.	
93	Mrs. PORTER's School.	
94	do. do.	
95	To the Town School	kept by various masters.
96	do. do.	
97	do. do.	
98	do. do.	
99	To Mr. HORN's School.	
1800	At Mr. NORTON's.	
01	do. do.	
02	At home till Christmas.	

03	W. R. Gray, Charlestown.
04	W. R. Gray, Boston.
05	W. R. Gray, Boston.
06	Went to Charlestown to take charge.
1808	do. do.
09	Returned to Boston.
10	At Boston, W. R. Gray.
11	do. do.
12	do. do.
13	Beckford & Bates.
14	do.
15	do.
16	Wm. Gray's agent.
17	do. do.
18	do. do.
19	do. do.
20	Settled in London, doing business for others.
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	Joined J. Baring, 1 January.
27	J. Bates and J. Baring.
28	Joined Baring Brothers & Co.

Soon after his arrival in London, he travelled on the Continent of Europe, and became acquainted with the great commercial houses of Holland and Italy.

His business connection with Mr. John Baring, under the firm of J. Bates & J. Baring, continued two years, when they both joined the house of Baring Brothers & Co., of which he was the senior partner for many years, and up to the time of his decease. It was once proposed by his partners, that his name should be

associated in the style of the firm. "I declined," he said to me, "for I had no ambition to be gratified by it." With all the modesty which ever distinguished him, there was no want of that independence which is the highest ornament of a man. He said to me, "On one occasion it was proposed to me to be presented at Court; but I replied, that I would not go until I was sent for. Not long after, King Leopold of Belgium was paying a visit to the Queen, and he sent to ask me to call upon him, as he wished to consult me; and I went."

He told me, that, for the first twenty years of his residence in London, he felt like a man with his back against the wall, fighting the world. This is an additional illustration of the fact, which we all recognize, that no success of any value can ever be had without struggle; and we may justly attribute a great part of his subsequent eminence to the traits developed by that struggle in that great city of emulation and contest, in a character trained as his had previously been.

As a member of the house of Baring Brothers & Co., he was brought into contact with a great variety of persons and characters, and dispensed a large hospitality. It may be doubted whether any private dwelling in the world has ever received under its roof a greater number of persons distinguished in different pursuits of life than that of our fellow-citizen and friend. I have met there the shipmasters of the United States, from whose ranks have sprung so many of the mer-

chant-princes of our country; and I know well the high respect and regard which he felt and expressed for their enterprise, intelligence, and honorable calling. "The English captain," he said, "carries his ship into port, delivers his papers to the consignee, and considers his work at an end, until she is again ready for sea. The American master looks after the disposal of his outward cargo, sees to the purchase and shipment of his homeward venture, and, wherever he goes, is practically his own consignee."

I have met at his table ministers representing sovereigns of Continental Europe; I have been there with the present Emperor of the French, when we were the only guests, and with a larger circle; I have seen him in our own land, in the society of the most distinguished men among us; and he always exhibited the same quiet, calm self-possession, the same equanimity, the same genial social humor, which he manifested when I was alone with him at his own fireside. Men of science, and officers of the army and navy of Great Britian, who were his neighbors, were also his personal friends.

He was entirely free from all pretence, and eminently a man of great modesty, — a man of thorough honesty, of great evenness of temper, and could not tolerate a sham. The present distinguished head of his house, in a recent letter to America, writes, "I have been associated with Mr. Bates in business since the year 1826, and during that time have never heard from him an angry word."

Why is it, Mr. President, that the life of this son of New England, seeking his home in a foreign land, hardly revisiting the scenes of his youth, should so deeply interest the merchants of Boston of this generation?

The answer to this question may be found in the fact, not that he achieved distinction, not that he was eminent among the merchants of the world, but that, though a resident of London, surrounded with all the blandishments which wealth and social position and professional distinction could offer, he never forgot, and was never unmindful of, his native country, nor of the interests of his countrymen. Having in his early days experienced the trials and difficulties of a business life, he was familiar with the wants of those exposed to like perplexities, and always ready with his counsel and aid to relieve their embarrassments; and it may be truly said of him, that he was faithful to his talents and opportunities.

Mr. President, I cordially second the Resolutions.

Edward S. Tobey, Esq., made the following remarks: —

Mr. Chairman and Fellow-Citizens, — Although it is by the kind invitation of your Committee that I participate in the solemn duties of this occasion, it is not less in accordance with the impulses of my own heart that I express my entire concurrence in the highly appropriate sentiments of the Resolutions which are now before this meeting, as a well-merited tribute of respect for the character of our deceased fellow-country-

man, JOSHUA BATES. The instances in which private character has been sufficiently distinguished to deserve formal public demonstrations of respect are comparatively so infrequent, that the present occasion is rendered the more significant and proper.

In view of the admitted tendency of self-interest to bias the moral judgment of men, and that in no other occupation or profession are they more constantly exposed to that disturbing influence than in conducting the extensive and sometimes complicated transactions incident to the mercantile profession, and which require important decisions to be made with a promptness that allows little opportunity for careful moral discrimination, it must be regarded as a high attainment to pass such an ordeal, and maintain an unsullied character to the last. Yet it may be truly said of the distinguished merchant whose virtues we would to-day commemorate, that his mercantile honor and integrity, through a long life of varied experience, has never been called in question.

A few days since, incidentally meeting an intelligent professional gentleman, who was on intimate personal and social relations with Mr. BATES during his early business life in this city, he remarked, "A more pure-minded and honorable man than Mr. BATES I have never known."

It was doubtless these invaluable elements of character, which, with a sound judgment and a comprehensive intellect, secured for him the unlimited confidence of the eminent men with whom through life he has been

associated, and which have made the name of Joshua Bates known and respected throughout the commercial world.

His valuable services, rendered in the prominent relation which he once sustained toward an important international question between England and this country, as well as other efforts to promote a good understanding between the citizens of both countries, and the fact that his long residence in a foreign land did not diminish his feelings of steadfast loyalty to the Government of the United States, in the hour of its trial, should cause his name to be held in grateful remembrance by every patriotic American citizen.

His liberal gifts, which aided so largely to found, in this city, one of its most valuable institutions, must, by an inevitable law, perpetuate his influence to coming generations, and has created for him a monument more imperishable than the marble which shall mark his final resting-place.

This crowded assemblage, which has turned from the absorbing interests of this hour, bears ample testimony of their respect for the character of this truly representative American merchant. May we emulate his honorable example, and cherish the memory of his virtues!

The Hon. Charles G. Loring addressed the Chair last.

I should not venture, Mr. Chairman, he said, even at this your invitation, to intrude a word in addition to the eloquent tributes already paid to the worth of Mr. Bates, were it not that I believe I can add the statement of an interesting event in his history, to which no allusion has been made, illustrative alike of his eminent influence as a friend to his country and of the position to which mercantile fidelity and ability may lead.

We all remember the excitement which, not long ago, pervaded England and the United States upon the question of the Oregon Boundary; and with what painful anxiety reasonable men, on both sides of the water, looked forward, in apprehension of war, upon that intricate and perplexing subject under the treatment of the short-sighted politicians of the day. But it is not known, I believe, or at the least so extensively as it ought to be, that we were indebted for its just and peaceable solution to two Boston merchants. But such, I have the best of reasons for stating, was the fact.

That noble among the noblest of the merchants of Boston, the late William Sturgis, being entirely familiar with the subject from personal explorations of the North-west Coast, and the careful study of its history, prepared a lecture for the Mercantile Library Association, and caused it to be printed in pamphlet-form, which every merchant has read, or ought to have read; in which he entered most elaborately and comprehensively into the discussion of the merits of the case on both sides, and concluded by prescribing a line for its ad-

justment, which he deemed to be equitable and alike honorable for both parties.

Mr. Bates, whose memory we are here to honor to-day, was, at that time, through the influence and associations of the great House of which he was a leading member, in direct personal communication with that department of the British Ministry which had this matter in charge, and in immediate constant correspondence with Mr. Sturgis; and, taking great interest in it as the earnest friend of both countries, was instrumental in the circulation of this pamphlet among the members of the English Cabinet, and members of Parliament, and persons of political influence in London, and in urging the adoption of the compromise it recommended. In this country, it carried conviction to the minds of our Cabinet officers, members of Congress, and thinking men: and the result was a treaty adopting the precise line thus advised; there being, however, an unfortunate diversity between the language used in the treaty and that recommended in the pamphlet, which led to the unhappy San-Juan controversy, not yet adjusted. If the phraseology of Mr. Sturgis had been rigidly adhered to, no question of construction could have arisen. The solution of this alarming national dispute appears to the world to have been the work of ministerial diplomacy, and as one of the cases illustrative of distinguished political ability and fairness of diplomates in the adjustment of international questions; but, upon investigation, no doubt, I believe, can be entertained that it was sub-

stantially the work of two merchants of Boston nurture and education.

Another exhibition of remarkable ability and personal influence upon the welfare of nations, exercised by persons in mercantile life, appeared in the settlement of that most dangerous and difficult question of the North-eastern Boundary, which came so very near to involving us in war with England. The apparently immediate negotiators were not indeed both merchants, the United States being represented by Mr. Webster; but Lord Ashburton, formerly Mr. Alexander Baring, and the head of the celebrated House of which Mr. Bates was a member, and who had been raised to the peerage by reason of his extensive reputation, wealth, and influence as a merchant, was appointed to represent England for the especial purpose of settling that vexed question: and Mr. Abbott Lawrence, of whose eminence as a merchant here I need not speak, was appointed on the part of the State of Massachusetts as one of the Commissioners to aid in the adjustment. And it is doing no injustice to Mr. Webster nor to any one else, to assert, that by means of Mr. Lawrence's efforts, and his influence upon the other commissioners, to him "more than to any other individual is due the successful accomplishment of the negotiation which resulted in the important treaty of Washington," — a treaty, by the way, about which the most remarkable and unfounded perversions of the truth, implicating the intelligence of Lord Ashburton and the fairness of Mr. Webster, still prevail

in England, notwithstanding an emphatic correction and denial of them soon afterwards by the British ministers in Parliament.

Thus, in two of the most difficult and dangerous controversies which have arisen between England and the United States, we are indebted for their final solution to the ability, intelligence, and fair-mindedness of merchants, three of whom Boston has the honor to number among her sons.

Nor can we fail to remember with just pride that Mr. Lawrence afterwards filled the office of Minister of the United States, near the Court of St. James, with a measure of diplomatic ability and success alike honorable to himself and creditable to his country. It may, indeed, well be doubted whether that post has been more successfully and acceptably filled in any period of our diplomatic history.

A word, sir, upon Boston merchants, by way of suggestion to the many young men of that calling whom I am glad to see here upon this occasion.

Boston has never had cause to be more proud of any class of her citizens than of her merchants. Of this the names of William Gray, William Sturgis, Patrick T. Jackson, Nathan Appleton, William Appleton, Amos Lawrence, Abbott Lawrence, and the eminent and excellent man whose death we are here to commemorate, and of many others, are plenary evidence. Nor has the influence of this class been confined within the local limits of Boston or New England. In all the other

cities of this Union, in Europe and China, it has been and still is vast and effective. If we were to take from all other mercantile cities, at home and abroad, the accretions to their wealth, mercantile reputation, and standard of character, contributed by merchants who had their birth or education in Boston or New England, a vast and unimagined deduction would have to be made. And, if we could concentrate into one focus all the various influences which they have exercised upon the mercantile world, it would manifest, I believe, a flood of light and heat which could ill have been spared.

I therefore join with you, sir, — and, as we are both on the verge of life, we may be thus indulged, — I unite cordially in your eloquent exhortations to the young merchants of Boston to appreciate the privileges and opportunities of their position; to contemplate the useful stations and honor to which they may attain by the faithful improvement of them; and to realize the vast influences, not only upon their own destinies, but upon those of their country and of their race, which a merchant may wield who is true to the privileges of his birthplace and the highest duties of his calling.

Letter of Col. Samuel Swett.

Boston, Oct. 19, 1864.

In my eighty-third year, and unwell, it would be the height of presumption in me to enterprise a speech on this occasion; but this does not exempt me from bearing witness in any cause, and especially in one so emi-

nently interesting and deserving as the present. There is not another person living, we believe, who so intimately witnessed the whole of Mr. Bates's career from his earliest residence in Boston to his recent melancholy decease, which all of us now so deeply deplore. We hailed with pleasure the earliest rising of his morning star, and witnessed the meridian splendor of its culmination, and have now, at last, beheld its setting in its full-orbed glory. Whatever faith we reposed in all the other presages of his predestined good fortune, we entertained the most implicit confidence of the success that must ensue from his amiable and intelligent physiognomy, his moral and religious principles, laudable and resolute ambition, and absolute devotion to his profession. His warm gratitude for the favors he received through life, which assisted him to attain his conspicuous station, was unbounded. This ladder by which he rose had not a round in it like that of "Young Ambition," who prostrated his to the ground as soon as he had mounted to its summit. My brother, W. B. Swett, of the mercantile house to which I belonged, was Mr. Bates's most intimate friend from the threshold of his life, and had the care of his family during his first visit to Europe.

Mr. Bates repaid these attentions by the most kind and generous returns to him and to his youngest relatives of the present day, especially to those of them who have been in Europe during the existing war. The same noble and generous spirit prompted him to extend the same favors to the descendants of his earliest pa-

trons and professional teachers, the Messrs. GRAY; one of whom, an apprentice of Mr. BATES, and patronized by him, is now one of the most prominent and prosperous merchants in our country. Mr. BATES was liberal and open-hearted in his hospitality, which was conspicuously manifested by his insisting on entertaining, at his own house, our Minister to Great Britain, Mr. LAWRENCE, during his protracted and dangerous sickness. And he set a very laudable example in the assiduous cultivation of his mind by reading, which he accomplished by collecting encyclopædias and other general treatises on the most important branches of knowledge, so as to economize the brief time he could possibly devote to books. It would be superfluous to refer to the munificent and princely public charities and donations of Mr. BATES; which like those of his celebrated compeer and fellow-countryman, PEABODY, will for ever proclaim their own record, trumpet-tongued. One of the pupils of Lieut.-Gov. WILLIAM GRAY, he demonstrated his unquestionable warrant to inherit his patron's noble mantle. They both deserve to rank with the MEDICIS, the ROTHSCHILDS, the NECKARS, and ASTORS of their profession.

SAMUEL SWETT.

Letter of Col. Thomas Aspinwall.

Boston, 14th November, 1864

Hon. Lorenzo Sabine,
Secretary of the Boston Board of Trade.

Dear Sir, — I regret very much, that, owing to my absence from town and other untoward circumstances, your notice of the meeting to be held by the Government of the Board, for the purpose of considering measures in reference to the decease of our honored countryman, Joshua Bates, did not reach me till after the subsequent meeting at the Exchange had taken place. Had I been present on the latter occasion, I should have endeavored to express how deeply I shared, both in the public sense of his high character and merits, and in the general grief for the great loss we have sustained in his death. In compliance, however, with your own reiterated request, and the desire, as I understand, of other distinguished members of the Committee, I venture, at this late period, and by this hasty and imperfect communication, to join in the public and well-merited tribute of respect, which has been paid here to his memory. But I hope I may be excused for saying, that at my advanced period of life, bereft of an old and the truest of friends, I do this with a heavy sadness, such as oppresses the mariner, when, holding on to his stranded ship as the waves break over her, he sees his shipmates, with each returning surge, swept away, and lost to sight in the surrounding waste of waters.

During an intercourse of nearly half a century, at first in London almost hourly and domestic, but always frequent and fraternal, I had the good-fortune, not only to witness, in Mr. Bates, the constant display of all those eminent virtues, and qualities of head and heart, which have been ably portrayed in the preceding addresses, but also to be made acquainted with very many incidents of his previous career. In fact, up to the latest period of his life, even when occupied with affairs of the greatest importance, and when enjoying all that wealth and universal respect can give, he was ever ready and delighted to turn back to the humbler experience of his outset in life.

His father, Col. Bates, though not wealthy, was much beloved and respected in Weymouth and its vicinity. The elder President Adams was fond of visiting his industrious and intelligent neighbor; and, on one occasion, quite won the heart of young Joshua, by his kind interest and sympathy, when suffering under that gastric affection which troubled him to the end of his days.

When Mr. Bates entered upon the threshold of commercial life, as a clerk in the counting-house of the late William Rufus Gray, he bent all his efforts towards the attainment of a thorough mercantile education. He was not content with merely that sort of training which suffices for the ordinary duties of the counting-house, but he sought, and read with avidity, books that gave him a knowledge of the habits and customs of foreign

nations, and particularly of the commodities wanted or supplied by every country on the globe. One of his earliest adventures, suggested by the perusal of one of these books, gave him a profit which, though small in amount, was, at the same time, enormous in proportion to the capital invested. The difficulties encountered in gaining access to such books first inspired his benevolent mind with a desire to provide, for coming generations of this city, ampler means of self-culture than had been at hand in his own time of need. This idea was nobly carried out, in his munificent contributions of books and money to the City Library; and it is certain that he was more gratified with the consciousness of having rendered a great service to others, than with all the public commendations he received. It was in his nature to shun ostentation; and he never wished his alms to be heralded by a flourish of trumpets.

When he was selected by the late Hon. William Gray as his agent in Europe, his character was established, both as an able merchant and as a virtuous and honest man. His vigilance and sagacity in watching over the various great concerns of his employer, then the largest ship-owner in the world, in the North of Europe, in England, Spain, and Holland, were often acknowledged, and, from time to time, more and more amply remunerated. A proof that his extraordinary ability and sterling integrity were duly appreciated by the great merchants with whom he conducted negotia-

tions in Europe is, that one of the most intelligent of them, Mr. Labouchère, spontaneously advanced all the funds he required, when he formed a partnership with Mr. John Baring.

I well remember, that, not long after he became a partner in the great house of Baring Brothers & Co., he adverted to his position as if he prized it chiefly for the superior advantage it afforded for the exercise of business talents on the widest scale, and for obtaining a ready insight into the state and prospects of mercantile affairs in every quarter of the globe.

It was observed, that, after he took part in managing the concerns of the house, material changes or reforms were introduced. Correspondents were regularly advised of the state of the London market. Expensive out-of-door agencies in London were suppressed; and their duties made a part of the business routine of the establishment. A branch at Liverpool was opened. An increase was made in the clerical force; and the business of the house extended in new directions, and much enlarged.

These and other measures, which tended essentially to husband and augment the resources of the house, may be traced to the foresight and judicious counsels of Mr. Bates.

But his efforts in the line of commercial reforms extended beyond the limits of his own concerns. Those who enjoyed his hospitality — and they were thousands

— might have frequently seen on his table some one or more of the many presents of plate, which he had received from public commercial companies, as testimonials of a grateful sense of valuable services rendered by him.

Perhaps the most triumphant proof of the very high estimation in which his character and capacity as a merchant and a man were held by the whole community, is found in his appointment, in 1853, as umpire to the commission under the Convention for the adjustment of claims between the United States and Great Britain. The American Commissioner, the Hon. Nathaniel G. Upham, proposed him as an American-born citizen, who in early life had gained great reputation for intelligence, energy, honorable character, and business acquirements; and as having, in a long residence in England, gained a standing and character that would impart full confidence to the claimants and the two Governments, in the intelligence, integrity, and impartiality of his decisions.

The British Commissioner, Edmund Hornby, Esq., said he "willingly concurred in the nomination of Mr. Bates, having every confidence in his integrity and unblemished reputation." It is fair to assume that Mr. Hornby's concurrence was expressly authorized by the British Ministry, to most of whose members Mr. Bates was personally well known. Such of his decisions as are recorded at length exhibit proofs of a thorough and

minute investigation, and a clear comprehension of the law and the facts involved in the case. Having had a professional concern in the proceedings of the Convention, I am able to state with confidence, that no exception has ever been taken to any of his decisions. As a proof of his impartiality, I know that some of his judgments were given against the interest and desires of his intimate friends.

For the last quarter of a century, Mr. Bates's hospitality was extended to multitudes, not only of his own countrymen, but of others, who were distinguished by birth, or in the ranks of science and literature. The deposed kings and princes of the Bonaparte Family, and among them the present Emperor of France and the Prince Napoleon, were his guests; and, at a later period, the exiled princes of the Orleans Family found an asylum in his mansion at Sheen. He aided them in their pecuniary arrangements, when their resources were straitened; and Louis Napoleon, in his days of exile, was always allowed by the house a credit of two thousand pounds.

To them, as to all, his address was plain, unassuming, and respectful, but perfectly self-possessed and cordial. Allowing for difference of circumstances, he was no kinder to the great than he was to the poor. In London, it was almost a necessity of my official position, that I should seek pecuniary aid for numbers of Americans in distress, for whose relief our laws make no provision.

I never applied to Mr. Bates in vain. He always gave cheerfully and liberally. His chief desire was to do good to his fellow-creatures, and to do it quietly and without ostentation. He used to say, that, though he did not fulfil all the observances and other requirements of a devoted Christian, yet he always endeavored, in all his conduct, to act as the Bible directed. It was a very early opinion of his, that anger was never of any use, but often a misfortune; and, accordingly, he trained himself up to the fixed habit of suppressing or dispensing with it altogether. This self-control had a large share in his success in life. It multiplied his friends and conciliated his enemies.

The loss of his only son, by an accidental discharge of a fowling-piece, plunged him into deepest affliction. He sought relief from his overwhelming sorrows in religious conversations and in reading the Scriptures; and, from that period, I often noticed in church, that he was apparently one of the most devout of the worshippers present.

The recent death of Mrs. Bates, I apprehend, hastened his own. He was devotedly attached to her. She had been his companion for half a century; and, without her, life to him was a blank. He wrote to me, that he felt as if he should never be cheerful again, although he had all the support and consolation that the most affectionate of daughters, his only surviving child, could give him. Her grief may find a lasting solace in the

memory of his virtues, and in the conviction that his career affords the best of examples for the guidance and encouragement of all who, in the outset of life, have to struggle with difficulties and obstacles.

I remain, dear sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. ASPINWALL.

Attest,

WILLIAM ROPES, *President.*

ISRAEL WHITNEY,
EDWARD AUSTIN,
JOHN M. FORBES,
AMOS A. LAWRENCE,
JAMES C. CONVERSE,
Vice-Presidents.

SAMUEL T. DANA,
JAMES STURGIS,
LORENZO SABINE,
Secretaries.

BOSTON, November, 1864.

ADDENDUM.

LETTER FROM JOSHUA BATES TO WILLIAM R. GRAY.

BOSTON, 16th October, 1815.

DEAR SIR, — Every event which contributes to my happiness or prosperity renews my feelings of gratitude to you, to whom I look, under Heaven, as the source of all my success and happiness. So many favors as I have received from you should have been more promptly acknowledged; and I have often been on the point of speaking to you on the subject, but an awkward modesty has always prevented, which must afford an apology for troubling you with this letter.

The circumstance of your leaving this part of the country, even for a few months, makes it possible we may never meet again. I therefore take this opportunity of thanking you for the many favors I have received from you, and for the kind manner in which you have bestowed them; never putting me to the pain of asking. The question is naturally agitated in my mind, How can I repay so much goodness? Were I in your debt ever so much, I should not despair of paying you. As my friend, I hope you will long live happily, and not need my feeble efforts to render you more so. I therefore conclude that the best return I can make, is in an industrious and virtuous life; satisfied that it would add something to your happiness to see me become a valuable member of soci-

ety. I am particularly happy at this time, being lately blessed with a son, which (if you express no objection) shall bear your name: should he live to grow up, it will remind him of the friend of his father, that he may learn to love and respect him, when I can no longer express my gratitude.

Wishing you and your family every happiness,

I am yours truly,

J. BATES.

THE ONLY SON OF JOSHUA BATES.

This gentleman, who, as indicated in the preceding letter, bore the name of his father's early benefactor (WILLIAM RUFUS GRAY), was born in Boston, July 2, 1815; and was accidentally killed by a companion, while on a shooting party, Dec. 20, 1834, in the Parish of Elton, Eng. The Rev. H. CAUNTER, D.D., preached a Sermon on the occasion, in St. Paul's Chapel, St. Marylebone, London, which was published. Appended to the Sermon was a Memoir, from which, in completing this Memorial, we make several extracts, in order to show that the son gave certain promise of following in the footsteps of the father. As will be seen, Mr. WILLIAM RUFUS GRAY BATES, "though surrounded by all the attractions of London, seemed insensible to their allurements," and that "he sought no pleasures or companionship beyond the hallowed precincts at home." We specially commend the passages we have selected to the young merchants of Boston.

COMMITTEE OF BOARD OF TRADE.

"When three years old, he accompanied his mother to France, where his father was then residing; and the occasion of his departure gave rise to the following beautiful poem, addressed to him by the Rev. HENRY WARE, Professor of Pulpit Eloquence in Harvard University.

TO W. R. G. BATES,

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EMBARKING FROM AMERICA WITH HIS MOTHER, TO REJOIN HIS FATHER IN FRANCE.

Lo! how impatiently upon the tide
The proud ship tosses, eager to be free!
Her flag streams wildly, and her fluttering sails
Pant to be on their flight. A few hours more,
And she will move in stately grandeur on,
Cleaving her path majestic through the flood,
As if she were a goddess of the deep.
Oh! 'tis a thought sublime, that man can force
A path upon the waste, can find a way
Where all is trackless, and compel the winds,
Those freest agents of Almighty power,
To lend their untamed wings, and bear him on
To distant climes. Thou, William, still art young,
And dost not see the wonder. Thou wilt tread
The buoyant deck, and look upon the flood,
Unconscious of the high sublimity,
As 'twere a common thing, — thy soul unawed,
Thy childish sports unchecked; while thinking man
Shrinks back into himself, — himself so mean
'Mid things so vast, — and, rapt in deepest awe,
Bends to the might of that mysterious Power
Who holds the waters in his hand, and guides
The ungovernable winds. 'Tis not in man
To look unmoved upon that heaving waste,
Which, from horizon to horizon spread,
Meets the o'erarching heavens on every side,
Blending their hues in distant faintness there.
'Tis wonderful! — and yet, my boy, just such
Is life. Life is a sea as fathomless,
As wide, as terrible, and yet sometimes
As calm and beautiful. The light of heaven
Smiles on it, and 'tis decked with every hue
Of glory and of joy: anon, dark clouds
Arise, contending winds of fate go forth,
And Hope sits weeping o'er a general wreck.
And thou must sail upon this sea, a long,
Eventful voyage. The wise *may* suffer wreck,
The foolish *must*. Oh! then be early wise;
Learn from the mariner his skilful art
To ride upon the waves, and catch the breeze,
And dare the threatening storm, and trace a path
'Mid countless dangers, to the destined port
Unerringly secure. Oh! learn from him

To station quick-eyed Prudence at the helm,
To guard thyself from passion's sudden blasts,
And make religion thy magnetic guide,
Which, though it trembles as it lowly lies,
Points to the light that changes not, in heaven.
Farewell! Heaven smile propitious on thy course,
And favoring breezes waft thee to the arms
Of love paternal! Yes; and more than this, —
Blest be thy passage o'er the changing sea
Of life; the clouds be few that intercept
The light of joy; the waves roll gently on
Beneath thy bark of hope, and bear thee safe
To meet in peace thine other Father, — God!

"In 1819, his parents removed to London as a permanent residence.

"At the age of sixteen, he was placed in the family of the Rev. Mr. Wheelwright of Tansor, Northamptonshire, where his affectionate disposition, and his confiding trust in those to whom he was to look up for guidance, soon made him a great favorite. In this secluded and pious family, he met with a few young gentlemen of his own age, some of them the sons of Mr. Wheelwright; and the simplicity of their habits, with the free range of a country-life, appeared to fill up the measure of his content, and to give enlargement to his existence. His conduct to the younger children was uniformly kind and affectionate. He delighted to minister to their little wants, always especially remembering them by some appropriate presents on his return from the visits he occasionally made to London; and he ingratiated himself with his companions by the ardor with which he entered into their amusements, and the generosity with which he shared his own facilities for their promotion. In the village, and in the neighborhood generally, he endeared himself by the kindly interest he displayed towards the poor, and those who showed ingenuity in the execution of the orders he gave for the gratification of his wants; and the claims of distress were never unheeded, so long as he had the means, from his allowance of pocket-money, to afford relief. He was essentially a social and a generous boy; but there was a reserve, or rather a delicacy, about him, which made him shrink from observation in mixed society.

"Towards the close of 1833, he finally left Tansor, and returned home. His accomplishments were superior to those of most boys of

his age. He was well grounded in the classics, spoke French and Spanish fluently, and read Italian with facility. He now entered as a clerk in his father's commercial establishment, where, for a time, he seemed to take an interest in his occupations. But the confinement soon wore upon his spirits; and his health occasionally suffered from the sudden change in his habits. He was allowed more liberty; and the duty enjoined upon him was such as his own inclinations led him voluntarily to perform. He would at times apply himself diligently: but the irksomeness of the employment at others oppressed him; and his solace was to resort to his father's house at Wimbledon, and amuse himself with his favorite country pursuits, even when he was the sole tenant of the place. He was devotedly attached to animals, and his dog or horse appeared to offer him sufficient companionship. He amused himself on these occasions with suggesting and superintending the execution of improvements in the grounds and buildings; and, when he had no other occupation, in schooling his little groom in the habits and duties he required of him. The list of directions which he drew up for the guidance of the boy showed that he felt a proper degree of responsibility with respect to his moral conduct; for he was strictly enjoined to attend church regularly, to abstain from all intercourse with public-houses and the idle persons who frequented them, to avoid swearing, to be neat and clean in his person, and to improve himself in reading and writing. Still, in these moments of seclusion, home was not forgotten; and he would often endeavor to entice his father or mother, or some of his intimate friends, to share his solitude. When it had worn upon him, he would return to town, and rejoin the family circle. But the mixed society he met there had few attractions for him. His own room was his favorite resort; and though, when summoned from it, he displayed none of the bashfulness of a young man unused to intercourse with the world, but would converse freely with those he knew or foreigners, he was the first to steal from its attractions.

"It was remarkable at this period of his life, that, though surrounded by all the attractions of London, he seemed insensible to their allurements. He seldom went to the theatre or to the opera. He sought no pleasures or companionship beyond the hallowed precincts of home; and the love of seclusion from the active bustle of the world, which

was so early marked in him, manifested itself amid all his opportunities for indulgence.

"He seldom voluntarily dined at his father's table when strangers were there, until within a few months of his death; and this change was produced in him by a circumstance which was exerting the most beautiful influence over his whole nature.

"In the autumn of 1834, he made a visit to the Continent, where he met with an object of attachment, which, in all the eagerness of youth, he aspired at once to win to himself. The profession of his young and ardent affections was met by the most judicious consideration to his present and future welfare by those who had a right to prescribe their present limits; and he was permitted to indulge in the hope of future happiness from the alliance he coveted, if his character and progress in life should justify the committal of so sacred a pledge to his care.

"This prospect animated him to the most strenuous exertions of duty. A very striking change was visible in all his habits of life; and he seemed suddenly to have acquired a sufficient motive and stimulus for the successful exercise of all the dormant energies of his nature. Business, which before had worn upon his free spirit, was now pursued with increasing interest and ambition. He found no duty which it enjoined irksome to him; and he had, within a fortnight of his death, attained to a situation, in the counting-room, of great confidence and responsibility, which he filled with credit to himself, and satisfaction to his father.

"His happiness was full and complete. He seemed to have every present wish of his heart gratified; and he felt within himself a power to carry joy onwards with him to the completion of hope. Not a doubt of its stability ever seemed to suggest itself to his sanguine mind; nor could a suspicion of its permanency arise in that of any one who saw the aspirations of his soul, and witnessed the refining influence which a pure and absorbing affection was exerting over it. It *was* perfect to the last moment of his existence; and we may confidently hope that death has confirmed it for ever.

"It had long been his wish to revisit Tansor, and renew his attachments in Mr. Wheelwright's family; and he chose Christmas holidays for his journey. On the 18th of December, he left home in his cabriolet, attended by his little groom. He reached Tansor the next

day for dinner, and passed a joyous evening with his friends. On the 20th, his intimate friend, Mr. HORATIO WHEELWRIGHT, was expected from Cambridge; and Mr. BATES, with three companions, went forth in the morning to meet him, as Mr. WHEELWRIGHT was to walk some distance across the fields from the spot where he left the coach. The meeting took place; and, on their way home, he was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun carried by one of his companions.

"The intelligence of the calamity was sent to a friend of the family, but in such a form as left some room for hope that life was not extinct. His afflicted parents hurried down to Northamptonshire on the 21st; and Mr. EARLE accompanied them to afford his professional assistance. But the fatal intelligence was fully learned at Oundle; and it was most affecting to witness, in all the agony of their distress, how deeply they sympathized in the heavy afflictions into which Mr. WHEELWRIGHT'S amiable family had been thrown by the melancholy accident.

"The body was removed to London on the 23d, and buried on the 27th in a vault made for it in the new cemetery at Kensall Green. Two of Mr. WHEELWRIGHT'S sons attended as pall-bearers; and all that the deepest sympathy of a large circle of friends could do to assuage the affliction of those who had been thus suddenly called to mourn over the loss of an only and beloved son, was done, and not unprofitably; for they have resigned themselves submissively to the will of God."

LETTER FROM R. W. WESTON, A NEPHEW OF MR. BATES.

This appeared in the "Boston Transcript," Oct. 25, 1864, and is preserved here by a special request.

COMMITTEE OF BOARD OF TRADE.

Such singular and unfounded statements have recently been made both in English and American newspapers, in reference to the position and early life of my uncle, the late JOSHUA BATES, that I beg for a little space in your paper in which to contradict them.

My grandfather, Col. JOSHUA BATES, was one of the most respectable inhabitants of the town of Weymouth, and one of its important business

men. For a thinly settled, poor place, as Weymouth then was, he carried on so many and such extensive branches of industry, that I have been told by old people not connected with the family, that his death was considered a serious injury to the financial affairs of the place. My uncle was an only son, and as a child very delicate, was therefore the object at home of great care and solicitude. He was educated partly at the public schools, and partly under the tuition of the Rev. JACOB NORTON, who was accustomed to receive two or three day-scholars at his own house. It was his father's intention that he should be educated at Cambridge; but a weakness of the eyes which long troubled him rendered this impossible.

To a man of his great powers, the want of a classical education was always felt as a great drawback; but he was better educated, when he left his home, at fourteen and a half years, than most boys of that time, intended for a merely mercantile career. Col. BATES died in 1804. He had placed his son, a few months before, in the counting-house of his friend WILLIAM GRAY; and this was considered, by my uncle's family, as the first, proper step in what they trusted and believed would be a successful commercial life. True, they did not imagine at that time that he was to become one of the merchant-princes of the world; but they did anticipate for him, and with reason, a fair measure of worldly success. He went to Europe, for the first time, in 1816-17, as Mr. GRAY's confidential agent; being at that time married, and twenty-eight years of age. In 1818, when his wife and child joined him, some touching "Lines to a Child on his Voyage to France to meet his Father" were addressed by the Rev. HENRY WARE to his son WILLIAM, who met so sad and sudden a death sixteen years afterwards; Mr. BATES being at that time a member of Mr. WARE's religious congregation.

All these facts show the extreme absurdity of statements in English newspapers, that Mr. BATES first went abroad as a ship-boy or as an unknown and friendless adventurer. All this is pure romance; and it is certainly desirable that it should be contradicted on the authority of the surviving members of his own family.

Any special anxiety in an American in regard to ancient birth and distinguished lineage, in his own behalf, seems to me weak and unworthy. But to have descended from an eminently respectable and

virtuous ancestry, and to have been born, and educated in the earliest years of life, in a happy and affectionate home, are certainly great blessings; and of these Mr. Bates was the possessor: and it is idle and unwise, in order to enhance the magnitude of his great success in life, to distort the real facts of the case.

From the time he established himself in England, his career is before the public; but his family in this country owe it to the truth and to themselves to correct, as they alone can, the singular coloring which has been given to the accounts of his early life.

I remain, respectfully yours, R. W. Weston.

New York, Oct. 24, 1864.